



University of Hawaii at Manoa

Environmental Center
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November 14, 1986
RP:0067

Mr. Leslie Matsubara, Director
Department of Health
1250 Punchbowl Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Mr. Matsubara:

Public Notice No. PODCO-O GP 86-1
Corps of Engineers
NELH Pipelines
Keahole Point, North Kona, Hawaii

The Environmental Center has reviewed the above cited public notice that announces the intent of the Corps of Engineers to issue a general permit to the Natural Energy Laboratory of Hawaii (NELH) for the installation of up to 15 permanent cold and warm water intake pipes and associated pump stations at Keahole Point, North Kona, Hawaii. A copy of our comments to the Corps of Engineers is enclosed for your information.

Please note in our review, the concerns expressed with regard to the proposed disposal of waste effluent to inland trenches. The potential for contamination of the nearshore water with high nutrient effluent thus significantly altering the existing ecosystem seems quite high. Furthermore, such contamination could easily affect the quality of the surface (warm) intake waters, thereby, jeopardizing the purposes for which the surface pipelines have been installed.

We urge that a more environmentally acceptable solution for the disposal of the waste effluent generated by the proposed intake pipes, (such as an offshore outfall), be required prior to approval and construction of the proposed multiple pipelines.

Yours truly,

Jacquelin N. Miller
Acting Associate Director

Enclosure

cc: OEQC

Patrick Takahashi
Stephen Lau
Frank Sansone
Keith Chave
Hans Jurgen-Krock
Frans Gerritsen
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